



Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners
Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations

Monday, September 8, 2014

9:00 AM

**Cook County Building, Board Room, Rm 569
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

NOTICE AND AGENDA

There will be a meeting of the Committee or Subcommittee of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners at the date, time and location listed above.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

According to the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board's Rules of Organization and Procedure, Section 1-4-30, public testimony will be permitted at regular and special meetings of the Board and at committee meetings of the Board. Authorization as a public speaker shall only be granted to those individuals who have submitted in writing, their name, address, subject matter, and organization (if any) to the Secretary 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Duly authorized public speakers shall be called upon to deliver testimony at a time specified in the meeting agenda. Public testimony must be germane to a specific item(s) on the meeting agenda, and the testimony must not exceed three minutes; the Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. Persons authorized to provide public testimony shall not use vulgar, abusive, or otherwise inappropriate language when addressing the Board; failure to act appropriately; failure to speak to an item that is germane to the meeting, or failure to adhere to the time requirements may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or disqualify the person from providing future testimony.

14-0375

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE, President, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

CONSERVATION AND POLICY COUNCIL

Amending the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (the "Preserves") code of ordinances for the purpose of establishing a Conservation and Policy Council for the purpose of providing additional leadership and expertise in the conservation area and other related areas.

WHEREAS, One hundred years ago, civic leaders in Chicago had the wisdom and foresight to leave us an extraordinary gift: the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (the "District"), and;

WHEREAS, in recognition of the need for a renewed vision for the District and as an acknowledgment of this body's commitment to a program of renewal, restoration and engagement, on February 18, 2014, the District Board of Commissioners adopted the Next Century Conservation Plan (the "Plan"), and;

WHEREAS, the Plan, which was developed by a team of civic leaders, organizations and District staff to map the District’s strategic conservation vision for the next 100 years, calls for transforming the forest preserves to places that foster diversity of plants, animals and habitats and welcome diverse people, and;

WHEREAS, the Plan also calls for the creation of a Conservation and Policy Council to provide continuous conservation leadership and expertise to the President and Board of Commissioners of the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the District Board of Commissioners that Title I Forest Preserve Lands and Property, Chapter 18 Conservation and Policy Council of the Code of the District hereby is enacted as follows:

**TITLE 1
ADMINISTRATIVE**

- CHAPTER 1 - OFFICIAL FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT CODE
- CHAPTER 2 - SAVING CLAUSE
- CHAPTER 3 - DEFINITIONS
- CHAPTER 4 - GENERAL PENALTY
- CHAPTER 5 - FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE
- CHAPTER 6 - FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES
- CHAPTER 7 - ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS
- CHAPTER 8 – DISTRICT FINANCES
- CHAPTER 9 - LAND ACQUISITIONS AND DEDICATIONS
- CHAPTER 10 - POLICY OF NONDISCRIMINATION
- CHAPTER 11 - DRUG-FREE POLICY FOR DISTRICT EMPLOYEES
- CHAPTER 12 - BOTTLED WATER BAN
- CHAPTER 13 - CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT
- CHAPTER 14 - DISTRICT VEHICLE POLICY
- CHAPTER 15 - REDUCTION OF WASTE
- CHAPTER 16 - GREEN BUILDINGS
- CHAPTER 17 - OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT INSPECTOR GENERAL
- CHAPTER 18 - CONSERVATION AND POLICY COUNCIL

CHAPTER 18 CONSERVATION AND POLICY COUNCIL

- 1-18-1 GENERAL PROVISIONS
- 1-18-2 MEMBERS OF THE CONSERVATION AND POLICY COUNCIL
- 1-18-3 QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS
- 1-18-4 MEETINGS OF THE CONSERVATION COUNCIL
- 1-18-5 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COUNCIL

1-18-1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. *Short Title.* This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Conservation and Policy Council Ordinance.

B. *Purpose.* The purpose of the Conservation and Policy Council is to safeguard, expand and bring additional resources to the District by providing public recommendations regarding conservation, based on the Council’s knowledge, skill, leadership and expertise in the field of conservation and other related areas, to the General Superintendent, President, and Board of Commissioners of the District.

C. Declaration. The District Board hereby establishes the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Conservation and Policy Council ("Conservation Council"). The District Board hereby finds and declares that the Conservation Council shall do, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Develop and annually update a five-year strategic and financial plan to operationalize the Next Century Conservation Plan and annually recommend adoption of the updated strategic and financial plan to the General Superintendent, President, and Board of Commissioners;
2. Review and make recommendations to the General Superintendent, President and Board of Commissioners about the annual budget and its alignment with the strategic and financial plan;
3. Review and make recommendations to the General Superintendent, President and Board of Commissioners about conservation policies and practices;
4. Review and make recommendations to the General Superintendent, President and Board of Commissioners about opportunities to maximize public and private financial resources to accomplish conservation goals and initiatives; and
5. Provide public recommendations, as needed, to improve the District's operations and conservation leadership.

D. Definitions. For purposes of this article, the following words or terms shall have the meaning or construction ascribed to them in this Section:

1. Conservation Council means the eleven (11) Member board charged with providing public recommendations to the General Superintendent, President, and Board of Commissioners on all matters relating to the policies of the District and the Next Century Conservation Plan.
2. Chairperson means the chairperson of the Conservation and Policy Council.
3. District Board means the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois.
4. Member means a Member of the Conservation and Policy Council.
5. Ordinance means the Ordinance Establishing the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Conservation and Policy Council Ordinance, as amended.
6. President means the President of the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois.

1-18-2 MEMBERS OF THE CONSERVATION COUNCIL

A. General. The appointed Members shall receive no compensation for their service, but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses while serving on the Conservation Council.

B. Number of Members. There shall be eleven (11) Members of the Conservation Council.

1. One Chairperson (1)
2. One Ex Officio (1)
3. Nine Members (9)

C. Appointment of Members. One of the eleven (11) Members shall be Chairperson, appointed by the President and one of the eleven (11) shall be an Ex-Officio Member. The Ex-Officio Member shall be a District Board Commissioner, appointed by the President. The Ex-Officio Member shall be a voting Member of the Conservation Council. The Ex-Officio Member shall serve as a liaison between the District Board and the Conservation Council. The ten (10) remaining Members, including the Chairperson, shall be appointed in the following manner:

1. Initial Appointments. The President shall appoint all Initial Members of the Conservation Council based on the criteria established in Section 1-18-3 of the District's Code of Ordinances.
2. Subsequent Appointments. After the first term of each of the Initial Member appointments expires or are otherwise terminated, Members of the Conservation Council will be selected as follows:
3. The President, in consultation with the Council, will appoint a Nominating Committee, comprised of at least 5 individuals, to recommend replacement or renewal of Members as terms expire.
 - a. A majority of the Nominating Committee members will be representatives of not-for-profit organizations that have as their primary focus conservation of nature, land and/or water.
 - b. One member of the Nominating Committee will be a representative of a not-for-profit organization that has as its primary focus government finance and public policy.
 - c. The Nominating Committee may include up to two Conservation Council members.
4. The Nominating Committee will review the qualifications of individuals on the criteria established in Section 1-18-3 of the District's Code of Ordinances, and will present at least one nomination for each vacant position to the President before the end of the term
5. The President will select from the Nominating Committee's list and present one name for each vacancy to the Board of Commissioners for concurrence.
6. If the Board does not approve appointment of the recommended candidate(s), the President may go back to the original recommendations of the Nominating Committee, or request additional names from the Nominating Committee.
7. Prior to their confirmation hearing, each candidate for appointment by the President or Board of Commissioners shall submit a notarized, signed affidavit to the Chairman of the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, that:
 - a. Is signed by the candidate;
 - b. Is sworn under oath, under penalties of perjury;
 - c. Is notarized;
 - d. Attests that the candidate fulfills the requirements set forth under the requisite statute, ordinance, law or regulation that creates the appointment;
 - e. Attests that the candidate possesses the adequate qualifications and skills;
8. If there is any change in the information contained in the affidavit after the candidate is appointed, the candidate will notify the President of the District Board of Commissioners in writing within seven (7) business days of the change.

D. Terms of Members.

1. Ex-Officio Member.

The District Board Commissioner who is appointed as the ex-officio Member shall serve on the Conservation Council for the length of the Commissioner's term. Upon an appointment or election change for the representative from the District Board, the President may provide notice to the District Board and the Conservation Council of any such change in ex-officio Member appointment.

2. The remaining Members. The Chairperson and the other remaining nine (9) Members of the Conservation Council shall serve terms as follows

a. For the Initial Members,

1. Three (3) of the Members initially appointed by the President, other than the ex-officio Member, shall serve a term that expires on December 31, 2015.
2. Three (3) of the Members initially appointed by the President, other than the ex-officio Member, shall serve a term that expires on December 31, 2016.
3. Three (3) of the Members initially appointed by the President, other than the ex-officio Member, shall serve a term that expires on December 31, 2017.
4. The Chairperson initially appointed by the President also shall serve a term that expires on December 31, 2017.

b. Thereafter, all Members including the Chairperson, but excluding the Ex-Officio Member, appointed shall serve a term of three (3) years.

1. Each appointed Member, whether initial or subsequent, shall hold office until a successor is appointed.
2. Any appointed Member who is appointed to fill a vacancy, other than a vacancy caused by the expiration of the predecessor's term, shall serve until the expiration of his or her predecessor's term.

E. Vacancy. A vacancy shall occur upon the:

- a. Expiration of Member's term,
- b. Resignation,
- c. Death,
- d. Conviction of a felony, or
- e. Removal from the office of an appointed Member as set forth in paragraph 'F' of this Section.

F. Removal of Members. A Conservation Council Member may be removed for good cause by the President. Good cause includes inefficiency, neglect of duty, malfeasance, or any cause which renders the Member unfit for the position or unable to perform the duties of the position. The President shall provide written notice to that Member, the General Superintendent, the Conservation Council and the District Board of the proposed removal of that Member from the Conservation Council; such notice shall state the specific grounds which constitute cause for removal. The Member, in receipt of such notice, may request to appear before the District Board and present reasons in support of his or her retention. Thereafter, the District Board shall vote upon whether there are sufficient grounds to remove that Member from office. The President shall notify the subject Member of the final action of the District Board.

G. Officers. The Conservation Council shall contain three (3) Members that serve as Officers: (1) Chairperson, (2) Vice-Chairperson and (3) Secretary. The Chairperson shall be appointed by the President. The Vice Chairperson and Secretary are elected by the Council. Each of the three officers, respectively, shall be entitled to vote on all matters before the Conservation Council and may be appointed to serve successive terms as officers.

H. Duties of officers.

1. The Chairperson shall:

- a. Preside at all meetings, when present;
- b. Execute all documents relating to Conservation Council policy or designate such responsibility as warranted;
- c. Prepare the initial agenda for each meeting; and
- d. Perform any other agenda duties as directed by the Conservation Council.

2. The Vice-Chairperson shall act in the capacity of the Chairperson in the Chairperson's absence. In the event the office of the Chairperson becomes vacant, the Vice-Chairperson shall succeed to this office for the unexpired term or until the President brings forth another appointment that is recommended by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board.

3. The Secretary shall maintain the Conservation Council records, including notices for and minutes of meetings and hearings.

1-18-3 QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS

A. Criteria to be considered in nominating or appointing individuals to serve as Members shall include:

1. Background and skills needed on the Conservation Council including, but not limited to expertise in one or more of the following:

- a. Conservation (practice)
- b. Ecology (science)
- c. Education/interpretation
- d. Cultural resources/archeology/historic preservation
- e. Management/business
- f. Eco- or heritage tourism/market feasibility analysis
- g. Finance
- h. Public policy and planning
- i. Outdoor recreation
- j. Health and wellness
- k. Volunteer management
- l. High level government experience
- m. Working knowledge of the District, Chicago Botanic Garden, Brookfield Zoo and/or other culturally significant institutions affiliated with, or supportive of, the District's statutorily defined purpose.

2. Resident of Cook County, Illinois;

3. Availability and willingness to attend Conservation Council meetings quarterly; and

4. Ability and willingness to:

- a. Learn sufficient details about District management and operations in order to effectively evaluate proposed actions and reports; and
- b. Accept and fulfill reasonable assignments from the Chairperson of the Conservation Council.

1-18-3 MEETINGS OF THE CONSERVATION COUNCIL

- A. The President shall call the first meeting of the Conservation Council thereafter, the Members shall prescribe the times and places for their meetings and the manner in which regular and special meetings may be called.
- B. Meetings shall be held at the call of the Chairperson, however, no less than four (4) meetings shall be held annually.
- C. A majority of the voting Members shall constitute a quorum. Recommendations of the Conservation Council shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the voting Members of the Conservation Council present and voting at the meeting at which the action is taken.
- D. The Conservation Council may hold public hearings as it deems appropriate to the performance of any of its responsibilities.
- E. The Conservation Council shall comply in all respects with the Open Meetings Act, as now or hereafter amended, and found at 5 ILCS 120/1, et seq.
- F. The Conservation Council shall be subject to the Local Records Act, as now or hereafter amended, and found at 50 ILCS 205/1, et seq., as well as the Freedom of Information Act, as now or hereafter amended, and found at 5 ILCS 140/1, et seq.
- G. The Conservation Council shall keep records of its meetings and activities that shall be posted on its website.

1-18-5 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COUNCIL

- A. The Conservation Council shall submit to the General Superintendent, the Board of Commissioners and the President an annual report prior to the end of each calendar year.
- B. Included in the report shall be any recommendations for additional legislation or other action which may be necessary to carry out the mission, purpose and intent of the District with respect to conservation issues.

Effective date: This ordinance shall be in effect immediately upon approval and adoption.

Legislative History: 7/22/14 Board of Commissioners referred to the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations.


Secretary

Chairman: Suffredin
Vice-Chairman: Fritchey
Members: Committee of the Whole